

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 IO-10 NEAE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

SAM-01 DHA-02 /083 W

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O 101005Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8646

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY COLOMO

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 5469

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 2)

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, BG

SUBJECT: TROUBLE IN BANGLADESH: THE JSD AND THE "SEPOY MUTINY"

1. INSOFAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE, EFFORTS TO BRING THE
JAWANS OF THE BANGLADESH ARMY AT THE DACCA CANTONMENT
BACK UNDER THE CONTROL OF THEIR OFFICERS ARE STILL IN
PROCESS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT WHILE PERHAPS UP TO 80
PERCENT OF THE ENLISTED MEN HAD DEPOSITED THEIR ARMS
AS OF LAST EVENING (NOVEMBER 9), NOT ALL OF
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THESE HAD ACCEPTED A RETURN TO NORMAL DISCIPLINE.

2. TWO REASONS APPEAR TO UNDERLINE THE SITUATION. FIRST, THE OFFICERS HAVE BEEN THOROUGHLY UNNERVED. KILLINGS OF OFFICERS AND/OR THEIR DEPENDENTS HAVE REACHED AT LEAST 19 (THE REASONS APPEAR TO LIE IN LARGE PART IN PERSONAL GRIEVANCES) AND WITH BANDS OF JAWANS ROAMING AROUND THE CANTONMENT, OFFICERS WERE NOT READY TO RUN THE RISK WHICH A CONFRONTATION WOULD INVOLVE. SECOND APPEARS TO BE THE EMERGENCE OF THE JATIYO SAMATANTRIT DAL (NATIONAL SOCIALIST PARTY) AS A FORCE AMONG THE JAWANS. U NUMBER OF PAMPHLETS ARE CIRCULATING IN THE CANTONMENT WHICH ARE POPULARLY BELIVED TO HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED BY THE JSD. WE HAVE YET TO OBTBUN ANY OF THESE PAMPHLETS (BANGLADESH ARMY OFFICERS ARE NOT THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN RELUCTANT TO ENTER THE CANTONMENT) BUT WE ARE TOLD THEY CAPITALIZE ON THE GRIEVANCES OF JAWANS, E.G./ THE FAILURE OF THE GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE RATIONS TO DEPENDENTS LIVING IN THE VILLAGE.

3. THE LINK BETWEEN THE JAWANS AND THE JSD IS REPORTED TO BE A LIEUTENANT COLONEL TAHER, PRESENTLY HEADING THE GOVERNMENT'S DREDGER ORGANIZATION AND A FORMER FREEDOM FIGHTER. WE DO NOT RPT NOT KNOW WHICH FACTION OF THE JUD TAHER MIGHT REPRESENT, AND THUS CANNOT COMMENT ON THE KIND OF IDEOLOGICAL INSPIRATION HE MIGHT PROJECT. AS WE HAVE REPORTED IN THE PAST, THE JSD COMBINES SEVERAL STRAINS OF THOUGHT, MUCH OF IT CONTRADICTORY, AND THE COMMON THREAD SEEMS TO LIE PRIMARILY IN THE ATTACHMENT TO RADICAL TENETS. BUT THESE RANGE FROM THE MAOIST LEFT TO THE THEOCRATIC RIGHT. IT IS, (9* :974 3, INEVITABLE THAT THE FIRST QUEWLION WHICH BANGALEES WILL ASK IS WHETHER OR NOT TAHER IS AN INDIAN AGENT OR PROVACTEUR. WE PRESENTLY KNOW TOO LITTLE TO COMMENT ON THIS.

4. GENERAL ZIA STILL APPEAS TO HOLD THE RESPECT AND SUPPORT OF THE ARMY BUT NECESSARILY NEEDS THE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF HIS OFFICERS IN BRINGING DISCIPLINE TO BEAR; WE CANNOT YET JUDGE WHETHER THEY HAVE REGAINED ENOUGH CONFIDENCE TO RETURN TO DUTY IN ORDER

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TO AID IN THIS TASK. WE ARE TOLD THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS ALSO CONSIDERING SPONSORING AN APPEAL FROM A WIDE SPECTRUM OF WELL-KNOWN BANGALEES CALLING ON THE JAWANS TO RETURN TO THEIR NORMAL DUTIES SO THAT THE UNITY OF BANGLADESH CAN BE RESTORED AND ANY POSSIBLE THREAT TO ITS SOVEREIGNTY REDUCED. AMONG THOU REPORTEDLY BEING CONSIDERED FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE APPEAL ARE JSD LEADERS RAB AND JALIL, RELEASED FROM PRISON YESTSRDAY

(DACCA 5426). WERE THEY TO JOIN IN SUCH A CALL, IT
COULD EASE THE SITUATION.
BOSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DACCA05469
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750390-0542
From: DACCA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751160/aaaacbga.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <03 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TROUBLE IN BANGLADESH: THE JSD AND THE "SEPOY MUTINY"
TAGS: PINS, BG, JAWAN, JATIYO SAMATANTRIT DAL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006